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Job search experiences and career satisfaction among recent archives program graduates

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Job Search Experiences and Career Satisfaction Among Recent Archives

Survey Intro

Please read to learn more about the survey and what we'll do with the data.

This is a survey of employment and career satisfaction among recent graduates of archives programs. To be eligible for this survey, you must have graduated from a graduate program with an archival education component in 2007 or later. If you are not sure if you are eligible for this survey, feel free to contact the survey authors.

We estimate that the survey will take about 20 minutes to complete. It seems long, but the survey is set up so that you get questions that are relevant to you. For example, if you say you're not currently looking for a job, you won't see questions about your job search. The structure isn't perfect in this respect, but you probably won't be seeing every single question.

For every question, please feel free to explain further or provide additional information in the Comments box. If you have a lot to write, click and drag on the bottom right corner of the comment box to expand it as much as you need.

Unlike many archives surveys, we're interested in hearing from people who ended up in positions outside of traditional archives jobs. We need your help to reach them! Please share this survey with friends and colleagues who are recent grads, as well as any grad school listservs or messageboards you may have access to.

In this survey, we ask for some pretty personal information. Here's how we'll protect your privacy:

- * the raw survey data will only be accessible by the survey authors
- * answers to multiple choice questions will only be reported in the aggregate. It won't be possible to see how an individual answered the survey questions.
- * comments and free-response answers will only be shared out of context. (For example, if we publish a quote like "I hated all my internships," we might say "This was a comment on the question about the value of internships," but we won't say, "The person who left this comment graduated three years ago and now works in a historical society.")
- * free response answers will have any identifying information removed prior to publication. (For example, if you write, "I had a terrible internship at the West Dakota Historical Society," we would publish that as "I had a terrible internship at the [state] Historical Society.")

Thanks in advance for taking this survey!

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Survey Source

We're encouraging people to share this survey widely. Answers to this question will help us evaluate how far the survey spread.

*1. How did you hear about this survey?

- ☐ SNAP listserv
- ☐ Archives and Archivists listserv
- ☐ SAA student chapter listserv
- ☐ grad school/alumni listserv
- ☐ other listserv (please name the listserv below)
- ☐ friend or colleague
- ☐ other (please name the source below)

Comments/Other (please specify)

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Archives Education

These questions determine if you're eligible for our survey. If you answer "before 2007" for Question 2 or "No" for Question 3, you aren't eligible and you'll be automatically skipped to the end.

***2. When did you graduate from a graduate program (in archives, library science, history, or a related field)? If you graduated from multiple programs, choose the one you attended before starting your job search in archives.**

- ☐ April-June 2012
- ☐ January-March 2012
- ☐ 2011
- ☐ 2010
- ☐ 2009
- ☐ 2008
- ☐ 2007
- ☐ before 2007

Comments

***3. Did this program have an archival education component? (This component might be an archives degree or concentration, or coursework in archives. If you didn't take any archives classes for your degree, choose No.)**

- ☐ yes
- ☐ no

Comments

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Archives Education and Prior Experience

4. What type of graduate degree did you earn? (Choose the same degree you used when answering the previous question.)

- ☐ MA/MS
- ☐ MLS/MLIS/other library or information science degree
- ☐ dual MA/MLS degree
- ☐ PhD
- ☐ other graduate degree (please explain in Comments)

Comments

5. When you entered grad school, did you have a specific type of archives job in mind?

- ☐ yes, I had a specific type of archives job in mind (please describe the job in Comments)
- ☐ I knew I wanted to work in archives, but I didn't have a particular type of job in mind
- ☐ I wasn't sure if I wanted to work in archives, but I wanted the option to be able to
- ☐ I wasn't at all sure what kind of job I wanted
- ☐ I wasn't interested in an archives job
- ☐ other (please explain in Comments)

Comments

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6. Please indicate all degrees you hold. If you hold a second BA/BS, MA/MS, etc., or a degree not listed here, please describe in Other/Comments. (Select all that apply.)

- ☐ BA/BS/BFA
- ☐ MA/MS/MFA
- ☐ MLS/MLIS/other library or information science degree
- ☐ MBA
- ☐ PhD
- ☐ JD

Other/Comments

7. By the time you graduated, how many years of full-time equivalent (FTE) experience did you have in the archives field? Include paid and unpaid work experience. (For example, if you worked 20 hours a week for a year, you would have 0.5 years of FTE experience.)

8. By the time you graduated, how many internships/volunteer projects/or practicums relating to the archives field had you completed?

Job Search Experiences and Career Satisfaction Among Recent Archives

Initial Job Search (page 1)

***9. Have you found a job post-graduation? (Please consider any paid employment, in any field, when answering this question.)**

- ☐ Yes, I found a job after receiving my degree
- ☐ Yes, but I already had the job prior to receiving my degree
- ☐ No, I haven't found a job yet
- ☐ None of these answers apply to me (please explain in Comments)

Comments

Job Search Experiences and Career Satisfaction Among Recent Archives

Initial Job Search (page 2)

10. Estimate how many positions you applied for before landing your first job.

- ☐ 1-20
- ☐ 21-40
- ☐ 41-60
- ☐ 61-80
- ☐ 81-100
- ☐ 100 or more

Comments

11. How long did it take from beginning your job search to being offered the first position you accepted?

- ☐ 1-3 months
- ☐ 4-6 months
- ☐ 7-9 months
- ☐ 10-12 months
- ☐ 13+ months

Comments

12. How many interviews did you receive during your job search?

13. How many job offers did you receive during your job search?

Job Search Experiences and Career Satisfaction Among Recent Archives

Initial Job Search (page 3)

14. How would you best describe the position type of your first job?

- ☐ archivist or other archives professional
- ☐ related professional (e.g. librarian, records manager)
- ☐ archives paraprofessional
- ☐ related paraprofessional (e.g. library assistant)
- ☐ employed in an unrelated field
- ☐ hybrid position (some archives responsibilities, some non-archives responsibilities)
- ☐ none of these apply to me (please explain in Comments)

Other/Comments

15. Were you satisfied with the position type of your first job?

- ☐ completely satisfied
- ☐ very satisfied
- ☐ somewhat satisfied
- ☐ slightly satisfied
- ☐ not at all satisfied

Comments

Job Search Experiences and Career Satisfaction Among Recent Archives

Initial Job Search (page 4)

16. Which setting best describes the type of institution of your first job?

- ☐ Federal Government
- ☐ State Government
- ☐ Local Government
- ☐ Historical Society
- ☐ Cultural Center
- ☐ Public Library
- ☐ College or University
- ☐ Community College
- ☐ Secondary School
- ☐ Religious Organization
- ☐ For-profit Corporation
- ☐ Non-profit Organization
- ☐ Hospital
- ☐ Museum
- ☐ Independent/Consultant
- ☐ Other (please specify)

Other/Comments

Initial Job Search (page 5)

17. How would you best describe the employment status of your first job?

- ☐ full-time and permanent
- ☐ full-time and temporary, term, or contract-/project-based
- ☐ part-time and permanent
- ☐ part-time and temporary, term, or contract-/project-based
- ☐ none of these answers apply to me (please explain in Comments)

Comments

18. Were you satisfied with the employment status of your first job?

- ☐ completely satisfied
- ☐ very satisfied
- ☐ somewhat satisfied
- ☐ slightly satisfied
- ☐ not at all satisfied

Comments

19. Did this job require your degree? (This question refers to the degree you earned before starting your job search.)

- ☐ yes
- ☐ no, but it helped me get the job
- ☐ no, and it didn't help me get the job
- ☐ no, and I'm not sure if it helped me get the job
- ☐ I don't remember/I'm not sure

Comments

Initial Job Search (page 6)

20. How geographically broad was your job search?

- ☐ International
- ☐ National
- ☐ Regional
- ☐ Statewide
- ☐ Local (no relocation required)
- ☐ Other (please explain in Other/Comments)

Other/Comments

21. Did you need to relocate for your position?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

Comments

Job Search Experiences and Career Satisfaction Among Recent Archives

Current Job Search

22. Are you currently looking for a new position?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

Job Search Experiences and Career Satisfaction Among Recent Archives

Current Job Search

23. Why are you searching for a new position? (Select all that apply)

- ☐ currently unemployed
- ☐ current position is temporary, term, or contract-/project-based
- ☐ current position is part-time
- ☐ current position is paraprofessional
- ☐ current position is not related to the archives field
- ☐ unsatisfied with current position's pay and benefits
- ☐ unsatisfied with current position's responsibilities
- ☐ desire a position with different responsibilities
- ☐ desire a position with higher responsibilities
- ☐ need or desire to relocate
- ☐ none of these answers apply to me (please explain in Other/Comments)

Other/Comments

Job Search Experiences and Career Satisfaction Among Recent Archives

Current Job Search (page 1)

24. How long have you been searching for a position?

- ☐ 0-3 months
- ☐ 4-6 months
- ☐ 7-9 months
- ☐ 10-12 months
- ☐ 13+ months

Comments

25. Are you searching for a position that is exclusively archives related?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No, but preference is for an archives-related position
- ☐ No, and I don't have a preference for an archives-related position

Comments

Job Search Experiences and Career Satisfaction Among Recent Archives

Current Job Search (page 2)

26. Which setting best describes the type of institution in which you would like to work?

Choose all that apply.

- ☐ Federal Government
- ☐ State Government
- ☐ Local Government
- ☐ Historical Society
- ☐ Cultural Center
- ☐ Public Library
- ☐ College or University
- ☐ Community College
- ☐ Secondary School
- ☐ Religious Organization
- ☐ For-profit Corporation
- ☐ Non-profit Organization
- ☐ Hospital
- ☐ Museum
- ☐ Independent/Consultant
- ☐ Other (please describe in Other/Comments)

Other/Comments

Job Search Experiences and Career Satisfaction Among Recent Archives

Current Job Search (page 3)

27. Estimate how many positions you have applied for thus far during your job search:

- ☐ 0-20
- ☐ 21-40
- ☐ 41-60
- ☐ 61-80
- ☐ 81-100
- ☐ 100 or more

Comments

28. How many interviews have you received?

29. Have you received any job offers?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

Comments

Job Search Experiences and Career Satisfaction Among Recent Archives

Current Job Search (page 4)

30. How many job offers did you receive?

31. Why did you turn down these job offers?

Current Job Search (page 5)

32. How geographically broad is your job search?

- ☐ International
- ☐ National
- ☐ Regional
- ☐ Statewide
- ☐ Local (no relocation required)
- ☐ Other (please explain in Other/Comments)

Other/Comments

Job Search Experiences and Career Satisfaction Among Recent Archives

Current Employment (page 1)

33. How would you best describe your current job or jobs? Please select all that apply:

- ☐ archivist or other archives professional
- ☐ related professional (e.g. librarian, records manager)
- ☐ archives paraprofessional
- ☐ related paraprofessional (e.g. library assistant)
- ☐ employed in an unrelated field
- ☐ interning in an archives or related institution (paid)
- ☐ volunteering in an archives or related institution (unpaid)
- ☐ unemployed
- ☐ none of these answers apply to me (please explain in Comments)

Comments

Current Employment (page 2)

34. How would you best describe your employment status?

- ☐ full-time and permanent
- ☐ full-time and temporary, term, or contract-/project-based
- ☐ part-time and permanent
- ☐ part-time and temporary, term, or contract-/project-based
- ☐ multiple part-time jobs, all permanent
- ☐ multiple part-time jobs, at least one of which is temporary, term, or contract-/project-based
- ☐ none of these answers apply to me (please explain in Other/Comments)

Other/Comments

35. Go to <http://www.livingwage.geog.psu.edu> and find your city or county. Find the living wage for one adult in your area, and multiply it by 2080 (the number of full-time work hours in a year). Is your yearly income (from all employment) equal to or higher than this amount?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Not sure

Comments

Job Search Experiences and Career Satisfaction Among Recent Archives

Overall Career and Life Satisfaction

36. Are you satisfied with the job or jobs you've had since graduating?

- ☐ completely satisfied
- ☐ very satisfied
- ☐ somewhat satisfied
- ☐ slightly satisfied
- ☐ not at all satisfied

Comments

37. Have your job or jobs since graduation required your degree?

- ☐ yes
- ☐ no, but it helped me get the job(s)
- ☐ no, and it didn't help me get the job(s)
- ☐ no, and I'm not sure if it helped me get the job(s)
- ☐ different for different jobs (please explain in Comments)

Comments

38. Have your job or jobs since graduation required an archives degree or coursework in archives?

- ☐ yes
- ☐ no, but it helped me get the job(s)
- ☐ no, and it didn't help me get the job(s)
- ☐ no, and I'm not sure if it helped me get the job(s)
- ☐ different for different jobs (please explain in Comments)

Comments

Job Search Experiences and Career Satisfaction Among Recent Archives

39. In your experience, has the archival education you received been useful in your post-graduation employment? (Please answer this question even if you haven't worked in an archival position since graduation.)

- ☐ extremely useful
- ☐ very useful
- ☐ somewhat useful
- ☐ slightly useful
- ☐ not at all useful

Comments

40. If you had the choice to make again, would you still choose to attend a graduate program in archives?

- ☐ definitely
- ☐ probably
- ☐ maybe
- ☐ probably not
- ☐ definitely not
- ☐ not sure

Comments

41. If you had the choice to make again, would you make any changes to your graduate education, such as attending a different program or taking different classes?

- ☐ Yes (please describe in Comments)
- ☐ No
- ☐ Not Sure

Comments

Job Search Experiences and Career Satisfaction Among Recent Archives

42. Imagine that a friend of yours is considering attending an archives program in the next year and asks for your opinion. Would you recommend it? (Please provide a more detailed answer in the Comments box.)

- ☐ definitely
- ☐ probably
- ☐ maybe
- ☐ probably not
- ☐ definitely not
- ☐ not sure

Comments

43. Since graduation, have your career choices affected your finances? (Responses can be positive or negative.)

44. Since graduation, have your career choices affected your personal and family life? (Examples might include, but not be limited to: altering or delaying plans to have children, moving farther away from or closer to your family, decisions about romantic partners, decisions about marriage and divorce, etc. Responses can be positive or negative.)

45. Since graduation, have your career choices affected any other aspects of your life outside of work?

Job Search Experiences and Career Satisfaction Among Recent Archives

All done! To thank you for taking our survey, here's a picture of some cute kitties.

**(From George Eastman House on Flickr Commons,
http://www.flickr.com/photos/george_eastman_house/5229059399)**

